criteria. Spouse will be eligible for assistance for life and dependants till marriage or employment or till they attain the age of 21 years.

(c) to (e) The Department of Culture presently has four cases under its consideration wherein widows of the late beneficiaries applied for assistance. The view of the State Government is being ascertained on each case.

**Recommendations of World gravel Tourism Council**

4111. SHRI R.P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a recent study of the World Travel Tourism Council, a private sector forum, reported in the Times of India dated 5th August, 2001 highlighting *inter-alia* the staggering inadequacies in developing tourism in India and the* need for "dramatic shift visualized by the industry in the tourism sector";

(b) if so, the details of major observations/recommendations of the Council and action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) the details of phased region-wise plans for giving boost to the tourism industry in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations made by Worlds Travel Tourism Council in their India Initiative Status Paper released August 2001 include simplification of visa procedures, augmentation of airline seat availability, privatization of the existing airports, opening of more international airports, upgradation of basic tourism facilities, improvement of India's image, evolving uniform taxation system conducive to tourism, leveraging private sector funds and skills to maintain and market India's heritage, marketing a single ticket for all national heritage sites, etc. Government is aware of all these issues in relation to development and promotion of tourism in the Country. The Government have been making efforts to sort out different issues and problems through consultation and dialogue in different fora with the Ministries and Departments of the Government of India and with the State Governments.

(c) Various plans to give boost to the tourism industry in the country include identification of 21 circuits and 12 destinations for development through the joint efforts of Central and State Governments and the private sector. The Department of Tourism has also constituted Special Task Forces for the

promotion of schemes/projects for the development of tourism in North-Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and hill districts of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

The specific components of the development activities during the Ninth Five Year Plan include infrastructure development, product development and diversifications, enhanced tourist facilitation, human resource development and promotion and marketing.

**Opening of Government Libraries in villages**

†4112. DR. A. K. PATEL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan to open Government Libraries in villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does notarise.

**In flow and out flow of tourists**

4113. SHRI CO. POULOSE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state the comparative figures of tourists in flow and out flow during the last three years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : The total number of foreign tourist arrivals in India and the number of Indian nationals going abroad during the years 1998, 1999 and 2000 are as follows:

| Year | No. of foreign tourists (in million) | Indian nationals going abroad (in million) |
|---|---|---|
| 1998 | 2.36 | 3.81 |
| 1999 | 2.48 | 3.88 |
| 2000 | 2.64 | 3.96 |

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.